

SN. 10/643,013

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. TOMK:009A

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 6-20 are withdrawn from consideration and have been canceled. Claims 1-5 are rejected. Claim 1 has been amended to recite transporting a slide or histology cassette onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station, printing directly onto a surface portion of the slide or histology cassette to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, and transporting the slide or histology cassette onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a separate discharge location. Support for a discharge location that is separate from the storage means is found in Figure 3 and its corresponding description on page 12, lines 22-30.

Claims 21-34 have been added. Support for claims 21, 26, 30 and 34 is found on page 23, lines 16-35. Support for claim 22 is found at page 20, line 7. Support for claim 23 is found in Figure 3 and page 12, lines 22-30. Support for claims 24, 28 and 32 is found at page 5, lines 34-35. Support for claims 25, 29 and 33 is found at page 6, lines 1-2. Support for claim 27 is found at page 16, lines 7-8. Support for claim 31 is found in Figure 3, page 12, lines 22-30, and page 16, lines 7-8.

A paragraph has been added at the beginning of the specification to reference the parent application.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under Section 102(b) based on Domanik *et al.* (U.S. 5,963,368). The examiner asserts that Domanik *et al.* discloses a method for applying information to a medical slide 14, wherein a printing medium is applied directly onto a surface portion 20a/21 of the slide 14 as identifier 22, and urges that the printing medium is a wax that melts on the glass slide, therefore the medium is sealable onto the surface of the slide and is

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proof against removal or damage. Claim 1 has been amended to recite transporting a slide or histology cassette onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station, printing directly onto a surface portion of the slide or histology cassette to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, and transporting the slide or histology cassette onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a separate discharge location. In Domanik the slide is transported from a cassette 28 or other carrier to a bar code reader and then to a microscope. After the slide has been examined, it returns to the bar code reader, then to a printer before being returned to the cassette. In the present invention the slide moves from the storage means to a printing station and thence to a separate discharge location. Therefore, there is no anticipation of claim 1 as amended by Domanik *et al.*

Claims 1-5 are rejected under Section 103(a) based on Domanik *et al.* in view of Matzinger *et al.* (U.S. 6,007,610). Matzinger *et al.* does not overcome Domanik's failure to teach transport from a storage means to a printing station and thence to a separate discharge location. Therefore claims 1-5 would not have been obvious based on Domanik.

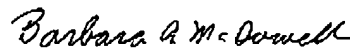
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

If there are any problems with this response, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a telephone call. In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE



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